

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05163 072248Z

73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5268

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS PFOR

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS INTERPELLATION SESSION

REF: A SEOUL 5070; SEOUL 5127

1. OPPOSITION NDP VICE PRESIDENT KIM WON-MAN IN
AGUST 6 INTERPELLATION SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
CRITICIZED ROKG'S EMERGENCY MEASURES. DESPITE SPOKESMAN'S
VOCIFEROUS STUMP STYLE PRESENTATION, HE ESSENTIALLY
TOOK INDIRECT APPROACH AS EXPECTED.
KIM CALLED ROKG A CONSTITUTIONAL DICTATORSHIP, CLAIMING GOVERNMENT
HAD FORCED 20TH CENTURY "HORROR POLITICS" ON KOREAN
PEOPLE. RATHER THAN DWELL ON HORRORS DIRECTLY, HOWEVER,
HE QUOTED LARGELY FROM PRESS
AND CRITICS WHO TESTIFIED AT FRASER-NIX SUBCOMMITTEE
HEARINGS.

2. SPECIFICALLY, IN REFERENCE TO EMERGENCY MEASURES,
COMPLAINED THAT OPPOSITION PARTY HAD BEEN FORCED
TO SEEK RULING PARTY APPROVAL TO INTRODUCE REPEAL
BILL. "WHAT KIND OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY IS IT THAT
OPPOSITION PARTY MUST GET RULING PARTY APPROVAL TO
INTRODUCE BILL?" HE ALSO QUESTIONED JUSTIFICATION
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 05163 072248Z

FOR SUCH EMERGENCY MEASURES, INCLUDING TACTICS USED BY

ROKG IN BY-PASSING ASSEMBLY TO INITIALLY PROCLAIM THEM.
KIM FURTHER NOTED THAT ON FEB 28, NDP HEADQUARTERS
HAD BEEN SURROUNDED AND ONE ISSUE OF PARTY ORGAN,
"DEMOCRATIC FRONT" HAD BEEN CONFISCATED.

3. PRIME MINISTER KIM JONG-PIL AND HIS CABINET
COUNTERED ALL CRITICISM SMOOTHLY WITH THE
GOVERNMENT'S STANDARD CASE. PRIMIN BERATED EXPERTS
LIKE FORMER AMBASSADOR REISCHAUER AND PROFESSOR
HENDERSON "WHO DO NOT KNOW KOREA." HE REGRETTED THAT
TOO MANY PEOPLE "TALK TOO MUCH." AND ASKED, "WHAT
PEOPLE ARE PROVIDING SUCH DISTORTIONS TO US AND
OTHERS?" SPEAKING ON EMERGENCY MEASURES, HE NOTED
THEY WOULD NOT BE RETAINED FOR "PROLONGED
PERIOD," AND THAT REPORTED INCREASE IN EMIGRATION
AND ANY DECREASE IN FOREIGN INVESTMENTS WERE CAUSED BY
ENERGY CRISIS. NO STUDENT DEMONSTRATOR HAS BEEN
EXECUTED AND NO SHCOOL CLOSED. HE DID EVINCE
SURPRISE IN ANSWERING CHARGE CONCERNING THE
SURROUNDING OF NSP HEADQUARTERS, SAYING THAT "THIS
IS FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF IT".

4. YU-JONG-HUE REPRESENTATIVE CHON CHAE-KU, DURING
HIS TURN AT ROSTRUM OFFERED ONLY VERY MILD, PRO FORMA
CRITICISM OF ROKG POLICY.

5. INTERPELLATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD AUGUST 8
AND 9.
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